



Spring 2006



Internet Update...

Continued

more creating. Forecasters envision what the future weather may hold, and then express it graphically. Once the graphics are constructed, they are shipped to the internet.

But it is much more than just graphics. If you could break a temperature graphic into pieces, you would have small areas no more than a few square miles. Each area, or grid point, would have its own temperature. The computer remembers not only the temperature for each grid point, but for other variables as well (such as wind and sky condition). With lots of grid points across Arkansas and the rest of the country, a national digital forecast database, or NDFD, is born. Customers can use the NDFD to get weather information for each grid point. It works kind of like the clickable map on the front page of the Little Rock website. When you click on a spot, data is extracted for that spot in the form of a 7 day forecast. Want to learn more about NDFD? Try these links...

Local Graphical Forecast Page
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/ifps/lzk/GFE/>



NDFD

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/>

You may have noticed some new radar imagery on the web. With the new images, you have the ability to keep a flat black background, or overlay terrain features, rivers and highways. This new RIDGE (Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements) radar is now available at every National Weather Service office's website.

Surfing
the web



RIDGE Radar allows users to overlay the latest radar images and warnings over local maps that display topographical features, roads, rivers, cities and county boundaries. The display also includes

distances between specific locations and the developing weather, as well as the ability to view an animated loop showing direction and velocity. The new system not only provides enhanced images, it helps the user understand exactly where they are located in relation to the storm system. The radar and warning images provide citizens with a heightened level of situational awareness that can help to save lives and reduce property damage.

For RIDGE Radar Pictures
<http://radar.weather.gov/>